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DE RUEHPO #0081 0591721
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 281721Z FEB 08
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0007
INFO RUCNCOM/EC CARICOM COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY 1639
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA PRIORITY 0019

UNCLAS PARAMARIBO 000081

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [EU](#) [CU](#) [NS](#)
SUBJECT: PARAMARIBO FOLLOW-UP: ADVANCING THE U.S. POSITION
FOR CHANGE IN CUBA

REF: A. (A) 08 STATE 18320

[1](#)B. (B) 08 PARAMARIBO 74

[1](#)1. (SBU) With regret, Post advises that GOS policy with respect to Cuba has not changed. As confirmed in the Ambassador's February 28 follow-up telcon with MFA Permanent Secretary Jane Aarland-Nanhu, Suriname continues to enjoy

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friendly relations with the GOC. Aarland-Nanhu advised that the GOS had already transmitting a congratulatory note to incoming Cuban Leader Raul Castro. In response to the Ambassador's query whether Suriname's message to Raul even mentioned "democracy" (reftel B, paragraph 1), the Permanent Secretary indicated that it did not.

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[1](#)2. (SBU) Comment: In spite of the disappointing message, the fact that the MFA Permanent Secretary made the time and effort to follow up on Post's request is heartening and represents an improvement over previous years. Although the USG and GOS may disagree on some fundamental issues of Western Hemisphere foreign policy, Post is working hard to build a foundation for friendlier people-to-people relations. Eventually, Post hopes that friendly relations at the grass roots will engender greater GOS support for policy issues, such as democracy in Cuba, that are of fundamental importance to the United States. End Comment.
SCHREIBER HUGHES